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EXAMINER

BEACH, THOMAS A

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. Claims 1, 6-52 and 64-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arunapuram 2002/0019759. Arunapuram shows computer readable storage medium containing a program element for execution by a CPU, said program element having a) a first program component for causing a computer to deliver first information to a user, the first information prompting the user to enter at the computer information about a rail transportation service for shipment of goods by one or more railcars [paragraphs 0014, 0022, 0038, and 0078], b) a second program component for receiving information about a basic pool of railcars, said second program component implementing a filter for filtering the basic pool of railcars based on one or more filtering criteria to produce a filtered pool of railcars, said second program component causing the computer to deliver second information to the user, the second information prompting the user to select at the computer one or more railcars among the filtered pool of railcars for the shipment of goods [paragraphs 0019, 0022, 0054, 0060, 0073-0075, 0078 and 0103]; c) a third program element for computing a price for the shipment of the goods at least in part on the basis of: i) the rail transportation service; ii) one or more characteristics of the railcars in the filtered pool of railcars selected by the user [paragraphs 0037 and 0117]. Arunapuram shows computer readable storage medium as wherein the delivering of the first information to the user is done by displaying information on a screen. Arunapuram shows the user provides the

information about the rail transportation service through an input device selected in the group consisting of keyboard, pointing device, touch sensitive surface and speech recognition unit. Arunapuram shows the third program component causes the computer to display to the user on the screen the computed price for the shipment of the goods. Arunapuram shows the third program component causes generation of an e-mail containing information indicative of the computed price for the shipment of the goods [paragraph 0011]. Arunapuram shows the information about the rail transportation service includes information specifying an origin of the shipment [paragraphs 006 and 0073]. Arunapuram shows the information about the rail transportation service includes information specifying a destination of the shipment.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's arguments are noted regarding the filtering feature of the second program; however, the mere automation of a set of parameters entered by the user would be obvious in view to enhance the efficiency and usability of the programs.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is 571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach

June 5, 2007

THOMAS A. BEACH
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